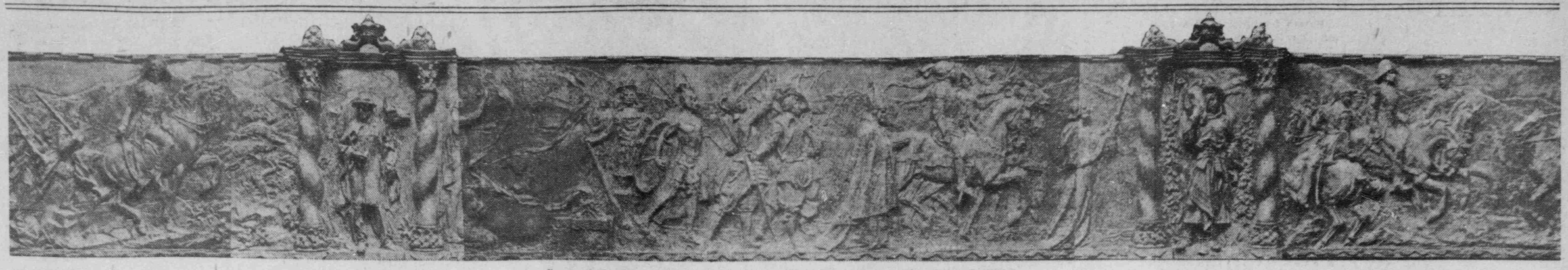
BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS---ITS DIRECTOR AND HIS AIDS



Some of the Mural Panels in the Bureau of the American Republics Building.

By CHARLOTTE M. CONGER.

The Bureau of the American Republics represents a united America. With the exception of the British dependencies, it includes every country in the western hemisphere, and people generally are coming to realize what the great statesmen and diplomatists of the world long ago acknowledged—that of all the great projects that originated in the last decade of the last century, the movement that led to the federation of the American republics was one of the greatest.

James G. Blaine was a brilliant and practical statesmen, but he was a dreamer as well, and the most cherished dream of his later years was an international union that would include all of the republics of the western hemisphere. Before his death this dream became an actuality, and the coming dedication of the new building for its use marks another stride forward in the history of the federation.

From the time of their national birth until Mr. Blaine became Secretary of State, the United States had blindly and persistently misunderstood the republics of South America. It made no effort to meet their people on their own or common ground, or to recognize what they had accomplished.

American merchants had fixed their ambitions on the markets of the Orient, overlooking the markets that offered at their own doors, American travelers invaded Europe, ignoring the beautiful scenery, the quaint traditions, and ancient history of Spanish America.

"Drummers" a Failure.

The manufacturers of the United States refused to adapt their products to the needs of the Latin Americans, and the agents sent to force things upon those people unsuited to their requirements were ignorant of their language and customs, their social standards, and etiquette, their ancient culture and civilization. These professional "drummers" were naturally unwelcome to the South Americans. They preferred to trade with the Germans and English, who study the needs and fancies of every nation with which they have commercial relations, and the French, who are a nation of diplomatists, quick to understand character and to adapt themselves to new social conditions, hence, finding the circumstances of trade with the South Americans difficult, the merchants of the United States turned their attention to the Orient, and while they were knocking at the doors of China and Japan, England, France, and Germany exploited the rich territory that would seem to belong to them geographically.

But "nouse avons changez tout cela," at least the Bureau of the American Republics has changed it, for, through its wise diplomacy, which has informed and directed them, the people of the northern and the southern continent have come to a better understanding and a closer relationship. This better understanding has come about gradually, but it received a mighty impetus from Mr. Root's visit to South America in 1906. There has never been a more hearty welcome accorded, never a more generous hospitality offered than Mr. Root received on that historic trip, and the director of the bureau, Mr. Barrett, never tires of declaring that the speeches, manner, and personality of President Roosevelt's Secretary of State accomplished more in the three months he spent in encircling South America to bring about a new era of pan-American confidence and good will than all the diplomatic correspondence and all the promoters and exploiters in a century.

Given Proper Publicity.

Until Mr. Root's famous trip to South America the real standing, scope, and object of the Bureau of American Republics was no better understood in this country than in South America, for it is not, as was generally assumed by the uninformed at the time of the establishment, an annex of the Department of State, a fifth wheel to the government coach, but an international organization whose functions are to cultivate closer relations and a better acquaintance between the countries interested, to develop commerce, to act as the agents of the Pan-American congresses, and to preserve their archives. Its affairs are directed by a board of governors, composed of the diplomatic representatives of the Latin-American republics resident at this Capital and presided over by the Secretary of State, ex officio. The executive officer of the bureau is its director, who is elected by the governing board.

The present director is John Barrett, who has been much in the public eye since he was sent as a youngster to represent this government in Siam, and incidentally to settle the Cheek claim. Mr. Barrett is a native of the Green Mountain State, the son of a Congregational minister, and an alumnus of Dartmouth, who started his career as a cub reporter on a hustling Western newspaper, all of which tended to make him the strong, earnest, capable man who has indelibly written his name on the history of the present time.

He is proud of his New England origin, and still retains the accent of that part of the country. He retains, too, his respect for the cloth which his father wore worthily; he still revers his alma mater, which has graduated so many great men, and he continues to hustle, when occasion requires, just as he did when he went in search of copy for his paper in the early days of his career. As director of the Bureau of American Republics, he is no conventional bureaucrat, content to sit pompously at his desk and direct the routine of his office, but a forceful official who makes every day count, who is not content unless he sees direct results from the work of his staff, and who is constantly thinking out new plans and new processes.

Barrett a "Real Yankee."

John Barrett has one characteristic that is peculiar to most successful Yankees—no task looks to him too big to attempt. A "real Yankee" will undertake anything, and if he is ever overawed by the magnitude of what he has essayed, he keeps very quiet about it. A captious Englishman once declared that a Yankee had no reverance, and he believed he would start out to run the universe with as much assurance as though he were the Omnipotent himself, and "he'd come jolly near doing it," he generously added. To the audacious Yankee nothing, indeed, seems beyond his ability, and in this Mr. Barrett is the audacious Yankee. His acceptance of the Siamese mission and his prompt settlement of the Cheek claim illustrates this point.

The procrastination shown by foreign governments in adjusting the claims of American citizens has ever been a scandal. The Mora claim against Mexico lasted for more than a generation, the McCord claim almost as long, the Emery claim in Nicaragua for something like fifteen years, while the settlement of the Oberlander claim hung fire for a decade. The circumstances surrounding the Cheek claim against the Siamese government were particularly aggravating and worked great hardship to the Creek heirs. Mr. Cleveland, who was then President, was on the lookout for a man to accept the mission to Siam possessed of force, ability, and knowledge to settle it with dispatch, when a young editor from the West called upon him in regard to some appointments about to be made in which he was interested. This young editor's name had always been broached to him in connection with the consularship to Yokohama, but after seeing him the President was so impressed with his strong personality that he promptly offered him the Siamese billet.

Quickly Gets Results.

This young journalist was Mr. Barrett, who frankly confessed that about all he knew regarding the land of the white elephant was that the Siamese Twins, celebrated all over the world, were wonderfully and happily originated there. This was enough, however, for an ingenious Yankee to go on, as the sequel proved, for he settled the Cheek claim with a celerity that amazed old and experienced diplomatists, wily and sagacious men whose lives had been devoted to the study of Oriental character and methods.

This was the brilliant beginning of Mr. Barrett's diplomatic career. Since then he has been in constant demand for difficult missions. He was sent as a special envoy to Japan, China, Korea, Siberia, and India, and, in the interest of the St. Louis Exposition, visited every sovereign in Asia and Europe. He had a tete-a-tete with the Dowager Empress of China, an interview with the Emperor of Japan, and was everywhere received with the good will and cordiality that his personality invokes. As minister to Argentina, Mr. Barrett accomplished in six months what the Department of State had decided it would require at least two years to effect; transferred to Panama, he was so successful in pleasantly disposing the Panamanians that he was sent to sooth the hurt pride and wounded feelings of the people of Colombia, still suffering from the revolution and the loss of territory, which resulted in the establishment of the Canal Zone. This was without doubt the most difficult mission Mr. Barrett had so far undertaken, for the Colombians were thoroughly incensed against the "Yankee Colossus," especially in Bogota, where the women had pledged their hair to make ropes with which to hang the first Yankee who appeared at their capital, but his fairness, his practical way of treating every subject, the impression he gives people of honesty and fairness were as potent in inspiring the good will of the people of Colombia as they had been elsewhere, and Mr. Barrett succeeded in making friends for us of those who had been our enemies.

Head of New Bureau.

When Mr. Root made his historic trip to South America, John Barrett was summoned from Bogota to accompany him on this mission, and to its successful outcome he contributed in every way. So impressed, indeed, was Mr. Root with Mr. Barrett's knowledge of the various countries they visited and his tact in meeting situations, that he persuaded him to accept the position he now holds, which, looked at from some points of view, was a sacrifice, for he had been offered the Brazilian mission, but his trip through South America had revealed to him the possibilities in connection with the Bureau of American Republics, and he relinquished, therefore, what would seem a much more distinguished position to accept his present post, for which his training, experience, and sympathies so eminently fit him.

It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss what Mr. Barrett has accomplished since he was elected director of the bureau in 1906, suffice it that the future outlook for the bureau has never been so hopeful as now, and what its director has done has been done con amore, for he knows the people he represents from every side, and knowing them thoroughly and intimately he respects, admires, and likes them. Mr. Barrett is signally fortunate in having as aids men who are as enthusiastic in the work he directs, as he is himself. The secretary of the bureau is Francisco Javier Yanes, a native of Venezuela, and a man of broad education and experience, who is as ambitious for the closer union of the republics and their commonwealth and prosperity as his chief. Mr. Yanes' service in the bureau antedates that of Mr. Barrett by a year, and previous to his acceptance of this billet he had held various other offices in this country, whither he came in 1892 as vice consul of Venezuela; subsequent to this, he was Spanish secretary and chief of the translating division of the Philippine commission, and he has represented his country at several of the international congresses. Mr. Yanes is a man of fine presence and polished manners, and has the faculty of making visitors to his department feel perfectly at home; but then, this is a characteristic of the entire personnel of the bureau from the messengers to the director.

Edits Monthly Bulletin.

The most important connection between the bureau and the commercial interests of pan-America is its Monthly Bulletin, which is edited by Franklin Adams, who was born in California, but has been an assiduous globe trotter and knows Central and South America as well as it is possible for any outsider to know those countries. He did not touch merely at this port and that, but traveled extensively in the interior and made a deep study of the countries he visited, from a social, historical and commercial standpoint. His work in this connection won for him wide recognition and the election as a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. In one of the recent Bulletins, which, by the way, is issued monthly in magazine form, and is one of the most entertaining and illuminating periodicals published, Mr. Barrett pays the following well-deserved tribute to its editors:

"The director of the International Bureau takes advantage of this opportunity to commend the assistance he has received during the last two years from Mr. Franklin Adams in evolving the Bulletin into a publication of such character and appearance that it is being generally appreciated in a practical way by the press of both North and South America and by all persons interested in Pan-American affairs. Before Mr. Adams became associated with the bureau he had traveled much in Latin American countries and acquired that familiarity with their resources and acquaintance with their peoples which have enabled him to bring to the Bulletin a knowledge which is essential for its usefulness and influence as a Pan-American publication. It is fitting that this reference to Mr. Adams' services should be made at a time when the Bulletin has made another progressive change, not only in its appearance, but in the quality of its contents."

FRANCISCO J. YANES,
Secretary of the Bureau.

HON. JOHN BARRETT,
Director International Bureau of American Republics.

FRANKLIN ADAMS,
Editor Monthly Bulletin.

FROM BAKERY BOY TO CONGRESSMAN---STEPS IN THE LIFE OF OTTO G. FOELKER

By MYRON JERMAIN JONES.

From a sturdy German lad of nineteen with $1.19 in his pocket and a baker's trade as a means of livelihood, to the New York State Senate, seems, perhaps, a far cry. But that $1.19 plus the friendship of an alert general secretary, and plus the educational advantages of the Young Men's Christian Association, led to a career. It did more! It made a hero in the fight for civic righteousness, for Senator Foelker's was the vote that blocked the race track gamblers in the famous contest of June, 1908, in the State of New York. And now it's Congressman Foelker, of New York.

Just fifteen years ago a young German from Troy, N. Y., trained in the bakery and confectionery trade, turned up in the city of Brooklyn. It was in the month of December, and the chill winds may have conspired to urge this young adventurer to seek the warmth and light of indoor hospitality as extended to him in the Eastern District Young Men's Christian Association. The sequel to that first visit was that Otto G. Foelker found a friend, and the after sequel was that that friend discovered a State senator and a member of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

"Yes, those were eventful days for me," said Representative Foelker, when pressed for his own life story. "I landed in Brooklyn with $1.19 in my pocket, and without a friend or acquaintance, so far as I knew, within 300 miles. I had struck out for myself, and in the great city of New York I thought I would find my best opportunity. Sunday was a lonesome day for me until I happened into the Calvary Episcopal Church, where the good rector, Dr. Twing, at once commanded my esteem and afterward became my friend. He it was who introduced me in the Young Men's Christian Association in its eastern branch, which was located near, and it was there the general secretary, William Knowles Cooper, now of Washington, D. C., won me by his friendly interest and personal kindness and service.

"Years have intervened since those days of beginning my career in Brooklyn, but I want to tell you that the sturdy, friendly hand of Cooper was a positive help in keeping me at it in those days of poverty and of struggle." And there was no mistaking the genuineness of Foelker's appreciation.

"Yes," he continued, "I pumped the organ on Sundays and lived in a lodging house (with the aid of a friend for a time) at 10 cents a night. I worked at my trade part time. Finally I got steady employment in the German Legal Aid Society in the early part of 1896, and that is what led me into the law, into the legislature, and into public life."

"A pretty poor building they had in those days, Mr. Foelker?" I ventured. "What was it that attracted, that held you, as a member of the Young Men's Christian Association there?"

"It was the secretary's glad hand and warm heart, and the friendly atmosphere of home away from home which the old building of Eastern district offered in the days of Cooper. Of course, there were advantages and privileges there. I started to study stenography and typewriting, but I soon found that because of the German accent in my speech it was impossible for me sufficiently to command English to become a good shorthand writer. So I gave it up on stenography, but I stuck to it on English!

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"I spent my evenings at the association, made my friends there, and my friends have made me. And I know it is by reason of such friends that many young men have been able to find themselves, to get a grip on things, and are given the encouragement which afterward has made for them careers. Next to your own home, your whole future is in the hands of the kind of friends you surround yourself with. A useful career may well be begun in the Young Men's Christian Association.

"Yes, those were hard days," continued the Representative, in reminiscent mood. "Five dollars a week did not mean much for a boy who was anxious to get more schooling. Many is the day I have gone on a 5-cent breakfast, and, confidentially, let me tell you that I felt better on the 5-cent breakfast then than I do now on my dollar breakfast sometimes! It was the social atmosphere of the Young Men's Christian Association that gave me the bringing out I needed. There I came in contact with people—good people—who spoke good English—and it was the atmosphere of the Christian homes to which I was introduced through the church and the association that gave me some of the polish I coveted."

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"You are a member of the bar in New York, Mr. Foelker? Where did you study law?"

"I studied law at nights in a law office and got my first start in the German Legal Aid Society. I had one year in a Troy business school, but it was only a small part of my real training. After making up all of the elementary training I needed in the Y. M. C. A. school, and having mastered a good deal of the secondary work, in 1902 I attended the New York Law School, and in 1908 I was admitted to the bar, after having secured my academic certificate through the years of supplementary study."

In 1904, Otto G. Foelker was elected to the New York State assembly. His early training in the Young Men's Christian Association in the formation of friendships, he says, gave him training for that first election. He won by only 96 majority, and on his own testimony it was a house-to-house canvass that enabled him to get his election in a district that had been largely Democratic before. In the light of subsequent history, it is interesting to note that Foelker offered the first resolution presented in the assembly providing for the investigation of insurance companies. His resolution was defeated by Nixon, then speaker of the House, who said it was out of order. Subsequently, a special message by Gov. Higgins, urging the investigation, was sent to the legislature, and the history of insurance legislation of New York thereafter is well known.

Foelker was re-elected in 1906 with a good record back of him, and the indorsement of the Independence League and the Citizens' Union. One of his first acts was to oppose vigorously the legislation which was designed to grant charters for diverting Niagara's vast volume of water for power purposes, and so destroy the falls.

Foelker also had a large hand in the reorganization of the "special claims bills" against the city of New York, bringing them into one general bill and providing for a board of estimate with power of passing on claims without going to the legislature. In a general way, he has supported Gov. Hughes in the direct nomination and in the insurance and banking legislation. In the assembly he was a member of the cities committee, chairman of the canal commission, and a member of the State's prisons committee and on the parole board.

In commenting on the whole question of punishing or reforming the criminal, Representative Foelker says: "It is my mature judgment that personal service spent in helping to make men is the key to this whole parole and reformatory question. Too many men are in it as a business proposition; we need more of the spirit of the true teacher, and the minister and the Young Men's Christian Association secretary in dealing with these problems."

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It is significant that the 80-cent gas bill, which was passed by the New York assembly and upheld by the United States Supreme Court, also had the active championship of Mr. Foelker, and that he was among the first to insist that Hearst have a fair deal in the election recount bill.

In 1908, Foelker was elected to succeed Charles W. Dunwell as Representative in Congress of the United States, the vacancy being occasioned by Mr. Dunwell's decease. He was one of eight candidates, but the convention that nominated him was unanimous, his being the only name mentioned in spite of the vast army of sporting men and many members of his own party who were arrayed against him. For, in 1908, Foelker became the most bitterly hated man in the entire State of New York—in certain quarters. And thereby hangs a tale.

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Everybody knows what a trying one that year of 1908 was for senators and assemblymen in the State of New York. "There were many important bills and measures up," said Foelker, in referring to the famous legislative battle. "Gov. Hughes was not like any other governor that the State had had in years. He was determined, so far as his own office was concerned, to have his way. He was equally determined to leave the legislature in absolute freedom. Yet he was determined to omit no effort on his own part that what was proper under the constitution should be done to insure the success of reform. He had made a second effort to have the State superintendent of insurance removed. He did this in spite of the fact that he knew it would again anger some of the most powerful men in the senate. He would not bargain for his measures. They must pass upon their own merit or be defeated.

"The governor had called a special session of the legislature; he had also ordered a special election to fill the one vacancy in the senate, and the Republican nominee pledged to this reform had been elected, although it was said that both party machines were against him. This had been regarded as a personal victory for the governor, who had stumped the district. If no vote in the affirmative was changed the two measures had now just the necessary twenty-six votes required by the constitution. But mine was one of those twenty-six. If I did not recover early enough to return to the special session the two bills would be lost, and their friends would point again to my sickness at the end of the regular session and would hold me responsible.

"While I lay at Staatsburg trying to regain my strength, these thoughts were going through my head daily. Newspaper correspondents were continually coming to the cottage to see me. At first they were turned away. Some of them showed that they were suspicious and doubted the accounts of my illness. I received an enormous mail, which I could not begin to answer. Clergymen interested in the reforms called upon me. I had several communications with the governor's secretary, Mr. Robert Fuller.

"It was in this atmosphere that I was fighting for strength. It was with this stain upon my mind that I tried to get upon my feet. So the days went by until the day of the special session arrived upon which that vote of mine was needed—June 11.

"I had made up my mind to go to Albany if it killed me. I had promised the governor that I would be there. An express train stopped at Staatsburg and I was put aboard. I cannot recollect much of what happened that day; but the victory was won."

WHAT "SILENCE" AT ANNAPOLIS MEANS

Eight hundred midshipmen at the Naval Academy—the country's future admirals—engaging in such games of boyhood as tops, marbles, hoop-rolling, and leap-frog was the sight which visitors to the government institution in Annapolis witnessed last week.

The sudden return to youthful games by these young men, whose ages range from eighteen to twenty-four years, was not the result of a temporary mental aberration, as the casual visitor might suppose. It was only a playful attempt on the part of the middies to show the authorities how they really could "enjoy" themselves despite the fact that a recent order of the superintendent has deprived them of all liberties and special privileges.

Following the "silence," which was recently administered, Lieut. Bertholf, of the discipline department, the entire brigade has been restricted to the academic limits. On their first liberty day they had a taste of the wholesale restriction, and they resolved to make the best of it. Word was passed among the different classes to prepare for the "athletic carnival," and everybody, from the humblest "plebe" to the dignified first-classmen, armed themselves with the necessary toys. Immediately after dinner they gathered on the terrace in front of Bancroft Hall and the fun began.

First-classmen vied with each other in their skill in spinning tops; second-classmen struggled for honors in spirited games of marbles; the "youngsters" showed some skill, but lack of practice at hoop-rolling, and the "plebes," the youngest class at the Academy, joined in leap-frog with an abandon and zest that bespoke the youthful memories forgotten when they entered the academic gates last June.

Everything went well until the boisterous shouts attracted the attention of the officer-in-charge. Before any one was "ragged" ("caught," in middies' lingo), the middies dispersed as soon as it was noised about that the officers were going to stop the games.

According to reports from the Academy, an investigation as to the cause of making a playground out of the terrace was taken up by the commandant. Then the word was whispered that any further demonstrations of the kind would be treated as disrespect, and the players would be severely punished.

This unofficial rumor seemed to dampen the middies' ardor for the sports, and a big revival of youthful games, scheduled for the next liberty day, was called off. According to whispered reports, the brigade had planned to turn out practically to a man, and parade to the athletic field, where different games would be indulged in by the different classes. The fear of losing more privileges, and additional punishments asserted itself over the boyish instinct, and the games were called off.

Since the order of Supt. Bowyer went into effect two weeks ago, not a midshipman has ventured beyond the Academy gates, except when the restrictions were lifted for Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. From the present outlook, the embryo admirals will not visit the city of Annapolis or have the pleasure of "dragging" young ladies to the hops until June week.

But the ever-gallant middy is not what you might call down-hearted. Every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon, their former liberty days, middies by the score may be seen hovering about the Maryland avenue gate waiting and watching for "her." When "she" learned that "her" middy could not come to "her," "she," with gallantry worthy of her beau, went to the middy. At the gate the middies wait anxiously, and their thoughtful faces light up with pleasure as "she" greets him from afar.

Seats at the ball games and quiet nooks about the grounds and in Lovers' Lane are at a premium. Everywhere can be seen middies and their faithful friends talking in whispers over the prospects of a change of heart by the superintendent and the restoration to the brigade of their lost liberties.

The "silence" which has resulted in the middies' sorrow is a custom as old as the Academy itself. It has only been administered twice to officers at the Academy, both of whom were connected with the department of discipline. It constitutes the most stinging rebuke that can be given an officer, and forms the only means the midshipmen have for retaliating against what they deem unjust methods on the part of the disciplinarians.

An attempt was made a few months ago to administer the "silence" to Lieut. Bertholf, but was broken up by the efforts of the first-classmen in charge of the tables. It was thought that the partial silence would serve to show the middies' disapproval of the methods of the officer, but they say there was no change in his attitude toward the brigade.

When the "silence" was attempted the second time, it was carried out perfectly, say the middies. Throughout the entire mealtime there was not a sound. "It was so quiet that you could hear the stillness," is the way one middy described the situation.

Having provided themselves with a stock of edibles at the canteen located in Bancroft Hall, even the pangs of hunger could not induce the middies to indulge in the meal provided. Not a plate or knife or fork was disturbed lest the silence be broken, and the waiters were ordered to move with absolute quietude.

Lieut. Bertholf, realizing the intent of the brigade, settled back in his chair at the staff table with the purpose of "sitting the middies out." For more than half an hour after the expiration of the regular meal hour, the brigade was detained in the mess hall before the signal to rise was given. With absolute quiet the middies marched out and went to their rooms. The next day they heard the order of the superintendent restricting them indefinitely to the academic limits.

When the "silence" was given Lieut. Commander MacVeigh, some years ago, the midshipmen of all classes were restricted the academic limits for three months. The midshipmen believe that their present restriction and punishment will continue longer than then, and may even effect the June week festivities.

As a result of the order of Supt. Bowyer, the First Class Club, the organization of which was planned for this year, is yet a thing of the future. This is a big disappointment to all the middies, as plans had been completed for the club, which would be similar to the one at West Point. Following Capt. Bowyer's order, a consignment of $3,000 worth of furniture for the club was returned to a Washington firm.

How It Struck Bobbie.

From the Boston Transcript.

Bobbie waited in the barber's shop while his father was getting shaved. On reaching home he exclaimed, "Oh, mamma, the man spread a lot of charlotte roosh on papa's face and then he scraped it all off again with a knife."